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MATTISON: "Well, I would hope that he is not a mouse, but we know that history of smoking is associated with pre-cancerous as well as cancerous condition."

MCGRAW: "And the last argument, I think, that is usually brought up that there are more smokers than nonsmokers, ergo, naturally, more smokers will die of any disease."

MATTISON: "We have an adequate number of nonsmokers to compare with smokers, and the difference between them is very, very great so far as the occurrence of lung cancer is concerned."

MCGRAW: "Another point of view in the next chapter of our Monitor report. Until then, this is Walter McGraw returning you to Radio Central."

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Chance Of Finding One Answer To Effect Of Smoking Held Small

Industry-Group Official Speaks

By JOE REISTER
The Courier-Journal Bureau

Lexington, Ky., Oct. 29—The problem of determining whether smoking is harmful to people "is tremendously complicated and the chance of finding a single answer is small."

So said Dr. Robert C. Hockett, associate scientific director of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, in an address Thursday night at the Tobacco Chemists' Research Conference here.

The committee was formed in 1954 to determine whether excessive smoking was harmful to the human body. The committee is composed of leading growers and manufacturers of tobacco products.

In 1954, the American Cancer Society published statistics "showing an association between excessive cigarette smoking and an apparent increase in the incidence of lung cancer in a population of men between 50 and 70," Hockett said.

Named Advisory Board

Subsequently, he said, the industry committee appointed a scientific advisory board "consisting of scientists of national reputation who were not connected with the tobacco industry . . . to work toward the further investigation of the claimed guilt of tobacco . . ."

Hockett told the tobacco research chemists that the industry committee and the advisory board "believe in the creation and maintenance of a balanced mental attitude toward this whole problem.

Says Attitude Criticized

"We do not believe in, nor do we approve of, propaganda attempting to indicate that the situation has been solved, that the problem has been taken care of, that we know the answer . . .

"Therefore, the T. I. R. C. says, 'Let's be perfectly sure of what we say, and let's be perfectly sure of what we advocate—of the soundness of it—before we attempt to convince the public of any guilt or lack of guilt or, in fact, of any other human habit'."

Declaring that "this attitude has been criticized by some as being obstructive," the speaker asserted:

"It is much better to proceed accurately and slowly to results that will last, than it is to proceed rapidly and sensationally to premature conclusions and part truths."

Dr. Hockett spoke at a dinner-meeting at the Lafayette Hotel. Earlier Thursday, chemists attending the conference participated in technical sessions in the Student Union Building on the University of Kentucky campus. The conference will continue through Friday afternoon.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/lmcm0000